

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for interrupting power to peripheral devices upon the extinguishing of power to a personal computer, comprising:

5 a personal computer having a central processing unit and a power supply associated therewith;

a power cord connected to the power supply for providing electrical energy to the central processing unit;

10 a power strip having at least one unswitched and at least one switched socket, each adapted to receive a standard electrical power cord plug;

means for sensing the presence of a low voltage signal from the personal computer;

15 a synchronous transfer switch connected to the means for sensing for selectively supplying or depriving electrical energy from an electrical energy source to the switched outlets upon the sensing of the presence or the absence, respectively, of the low voltage signal from the means for sensing; and

said power cord electrically connected to one of the at least one unswitched sockets of the power strip.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the means for sensing the presence of a low voltage signal from the personal computer is a 5 Volt power tap.

20 3. The system of Claim 2, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a female DIN mouse socket of the personal computer.

4. The system of Claim 2, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a female DIN keyboard socket of the personal computer.

5. The system of Claim 2, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a female DIN socket associated with a PC model XT or AT.

6. The system of Claim 2, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a USB female socket associated with the PC.

7. The system of Claim 2, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a USB female socket associated with a universal serial bus hub.

8. The system of Claim 2, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a USB female socket associated with a front USB hub.

9. The system of Claim 2, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a USB female socket associated with a USB/hub splitter for a notebook PC.

10. A system for interrupting power to peripheral devices upon the extinguishing of power to a PC, the PC having a central processing unit and a power supply associated therewith, and a power cord connected to the power supply for providing electrical energy to the central processing unit, the system comprising:

a power strip having at least one unswitched and at least one switched socket,
each adapted to receive a standard electrical power cord plug;
means for sensing the presence of a low voltage signal from the personal
computer;

a synchronous transfer switch connected to the means for sensing for selectively supplying or depriving electrical energy from an electrical energy source to the switched outlets upon the sensing of the presence or the absence, respectively, of the low voltage signal from the means for sensing; and
said power cord electrically connected to one of the at least one unswitched outlets of the power strip.

11. The system of Claim 10, where in the means for sensing the presence of a low voltage signal from the personal computer unit is a 5 Volt power tap.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a female DIN mouse socket of the personal computer.

13. The system of Claim 11, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a female DIN keyboard socket of the personal computer.

14. The system of Claim 11, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a female DIN socket associated with a PC model XT or AT.

15. The system of Claim 11, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a USB female socket associated with the PC.

16. The system of Claim 11, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a USB female socket associated with a universal serial bus hub.

17. The system of Claim 11, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a USB female socket associated with a front USB hub.

18. The system of Claim 11, wherein the 5 Volt power tap includes a cable which electrically connects the synchronous transfer switch to a USB female socket associated with a USB/hub splitter for notebook PC.

19. A system for interrupting power to peripheral devices upon the extinguishing of power to a personal computer, the personal computer having a central processing unit and a power supply associated therewith, and a power cord connected to the power supply for providing electrical energy to the central processing unit, the system comprising:

a power strip having at least one unswitched and at least one switched socket, each adapted to receive a standard electrical power cord plug;

means for sensing the presence of a low voltage signal from the personal computer;

a synchronous transfer switch connected to the means for sensing for selectively supplying or depriving electrical energy from an electrical energy source to the switched outlets upon the sensing of the presence or the absence, respectively, of the low voltage signal from the means for sensing;

said power cord electrically connected to one of the at least one unswitched outlets of the power strip; and

wherein the means for sensing comprises a low voltage power tap which includes a cable for electrically connecting the synchronous transfer switch with a female DIN socket associated with the personal computer and with a female USB connector associated with the personal computer.

20. A method for causing at least one secondary device to become energized and de-energized substantially simultaneously with a primary device, through the use of an electrical power strip

device of the type having at least one unswitched and at least one switched socket, each adapted to receive a standard electrical power cord plug, means for sensing the presence or absence of a low voltage signal from the primary device, a synchronous transfer switch connected to the means for sensing for selectively supplying or depriving electrical energy from an electrical energy source to the switched outlets upon the sensing of the presence or the absence, respectively, of the low voltage signal from the means for sensing, and a power cord electrically connected between the primary device and at least one of the unswitched outlets of the power strip, the method comprising the steps of:

- connecting the power cord to one of the unswitched outlets of the power strip;
- connecting at least one secondary device to the at least one switched socket;
- communicating the synchronous transfer switch with a low voltage output socket associated with the primary device such that when the primary device is energized the synchronous transfer switch will be open to prevent current from passing to the secondary device(s), and when the primary device is energized the synchronous transfer switch will close so as to permit power to pass through the switched socket(s) to the secondary device(s); and
- wherein the means for sensing is a low voltage power tap cable.